



SAN ANTONIO

POLICE

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News Release

OFFICER INVOLVED SHOOTING

A preliminary investigation pertaining to an officer involved shooting reveals the following: On June 21, 2005, at approximately 11:30pm, San Antonio Police Officers James Phelan, a 16 year veteran, and Michael Ramirez, an 18-year veteran, responded to 11245 Sir Winston #523 for a disturbance call. Officer Phelan was the first officer to arrive at the scene and began to knock on the front door. When asked to identify himself, Officer Phelan yelled out "police" and asked the occupants to come to the door. Officer Phelan reports that suddenly the front door was opened at which time Officer Phelan was confronted by a male suspected holding what appeared to be knives. Officer Phelan drew his service weapon and retreated down several stairs, while ordering the suspect to drop his weapons. Instead, the suspect began to approach Officer Phelan, while at the same time yelling for Officer Phelan to shoot him. Officer Phelan retreated down several more stairs at which time he could not longer retreat and felt that his life was in danger. Officer Phelan then fired two shots from his service weapon; striking the suspect in the shoulder and middle torso area. The suspect went down to the ground and was able to be secured until the arrival of E.M.S. The suspect was found to be armed with one large screwdriver and two kitchen knives. The female occupant of the apartment did not require any medical attention and was transported to SAPD headquarters for a statement.

Officer Ramirez had arrived just moments before Officer Phelan fired his weapon, and was able to witness the actual shooting. The suspect was transported to University Hospital, where he is currently in critical condition. The suspect's identity will be withheld pending the filing of formal charges.

The San Antonio Police Department's shooting Team is handling the investigation and will submit their findings to Police Chief Albert A. Ortiz and the Bexar County District Attorney's Office. As per policy, Officer Phelan will be placed on administrative duty while the investigation continues.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE